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CHARLES H. HUGHES
LAURENCE A. COBB



State of North Carolina
Utilities Commission

Post Office Box 29510
Raleigh, N. C. 27626-0510

COMMISSIONERS
ALLYSON K. DUNCAN
RALPH A. HUNT
JUDY HUNT
WILLIAM R. PITTMAN

August 12, 1997

Mr. William F. Canton
Acting Secretary
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W., Room 222
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Federal State Joint Board on Universal Service
CC Docket No. 96-45
CC Docket No. 97-160

Dear Mr. Canton:

In response to the Report and Order released on May 8, 1997, the North Carolina Utilities Commission hereby formally gives notice to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) of its election to submit its own universal service cost studies to the FCC for use in calculating the amount of support to be received from the national high cost fund. The North Carolina Utilities Commission is in the best position to select the appropriate cost proxy model and model inputs that are representative of conditions within North Carolina.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jo Anne Sanford".

Jo Anne Sanford, Chair
North Carolina Utilities Commission

JAS/bcs

cc: Sheryl Todd

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Metropolitan School District of Pike Township

6901 Zionsville Road
Indianapolis, Indiana 46268-2467
317-387-2220 FAX: 317-387-2246

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Eric A. Witherspoon, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Donna U. Ewing
Executive Assistant

August 13, 1997

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Mr. William F. Caton, Acting Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW, Room 222
Washington, DC 20554
Reference CC Docket 96-45

Dear Mr. Caton:

I disagree with the FCC Reconsideration Order issued on July 10, 1997 which nullified contracts signed after November 8, 1996 for universal service discounts for schools and libraries.

Our outstanding school district raises over ninety (90) percent of our funding for our local schools from local property taxes. Our remaining revenue is raised within the State of Indiana. We are excellent stewards of our local education revenue. We have entered into contracts for universal service discounts to save money and to get the biggest "bang for the buck" as we spend local revenue to educate our youth. We oppose an order from the FCC which nullifies the contracts we have negotiated.

This FCC order is arbitrary and places our school district in serious jeopardy of losing our discounts. I urge you to reconsider the order and not override local education decisions.

Sincerely,

Eric A. Witherspoon, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools

EAW:de

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*Public Service Commission
Of West Virginia*

201 Brook Street, Box 812
Charleston, West Virginia 25323

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Charlotte R. Lane
Chairman

FCC MAIL ROOM

August 15, 1997

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William F. Caton, Acting Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Room 222
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Federal-State Board on Universal Service
CC Docket Nos. 96-45 and 97-160

Dear Mr. Caton:

In its order of May 8, 1997 in the above referenced matter, the Federal Communications Commission (Commission) determined that more time is required before a final decision can be issued on the adoption of an economic cost model. The WVPSC has evaluated several proposed models in two proceedings; AT&T/Bell Atlantic of West Virginia Arbitration and Bell Atlantic of West Virginia's proposed Statement of Generally Accepted Terms and Conditions. In these proceedings, the WVPSC decided to base its decisions on the Hatfield Model with certain modifications. However, we agree with the Commission's decision to further review costing models and to compare and contrast more fully the structure and the input values used in the models. We expect to continue our review and analysis of the appropriate costing model, and inputs thereto, in a State Universal Service Fund proceeding.

In the May 8 Order, the Commission requested that states "... elect, by August 15, 1997, whether they will conduct their own forward-looking economic cost studies." The purpose of this letter is to make such election. The WVPSC will accept the offer to provide input to the Commission regarding a proper model for determining the cost of providing service in West Virginia. After a further review and evaluation of cost models in our State Universal Service Fund Proceeding, the WVPSC will file a report with the Commission, as requested, specifying the West Virginia recommended cost model, and the comparison of that model to the "Criteria for Forward-Looking Economic Cost Determination" set for by the Commission.

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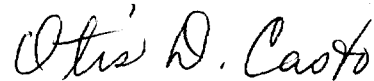
William F. Caton, Acting Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Page 2

Please note this election and provide us with any changes to the schedule, requirements or expectations of the Commission regarding the report on West Virginia's cost study, presently scheduled to be filed by February 6, 1998.

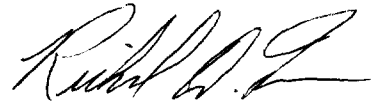
Sincerely,



Charlotte R. Lane, Chairman



Otis D. Casto, Commissioner



Richard D. Frum, Commissioner

CRL/las
cc: Chief, Common Carrier Bureau
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, DC 20554

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FCC MAIL ROOM

**Before the
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554**

In the Matter of

**Federal-State Joint Board on
Universal Service**

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CC Docket No. 96-94 ⁴⁵

**New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission's
Election to Conduct Its Own
Forward-Looking Economic Cost Studies**

In Paragraph 248 of the Report and Order adopted on May 7, 1997 and released on May 8, 1997, FCC 97-157, the Federal Communications Commission (Commission) announced that forward-looking economic cost studies cost studies conducted by state commissions can be used as the basis for calculating federal universal service support. On or before February 6, 1998, such cost studies are to be submitted to the Commission for approval on the basis of criteria detailed in Paragraphs 250 and 251 of the Report and Order. Paragraph 248 requires states to inform the Commission on or before August 15, 1997, of its intent to conduct its own cost study. The New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission (NHPUC) hereby informs the Commission that it intends to conduct its own cost study.

Respectfully submitted,



E. Barclay Jackson, Esq.
Hearings Examiner
New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission
8 Old Suncook Road
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

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